

## METHOD OF COATING SMOOTH ELECTROLESS NICKEL ON MAGNETIC MEMORY DISKS AND RELATED MEMORY DEVICES

[0071] A method of manufacture of thin film magnetic disks and other useful articles of similar planar geometry in which a non-magnetic layer is first deposited on one or both sides of the disk or article substrate to mask chemical and mechanically induced heterogeneities introduced by pre-polishing to achieve a smooth finish, typically resulting in cold-working of the surface, and to also bind to the substrate and is then coated with a thin layer of metal selected to either reactively or catalytically initiate smooth, electroless deposition of a non-magnetic nickel alloy which is subsequently polished and coated with additional thin layers to provide magnetic read-write capability. A disk drive using one or more of such disks is provided.